

Message

From: Cannon, Phillippa [Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov]
Sent: 9/30/2021 11:46:26 AM
To: Russell, Diane [russell.diane@epa.gov]; Pope, Janet [Pope.Janet@epa.gov]; Walts, Alan [walts.alan@epa.gov]; Fong, Tera [Fong.Tera@epa.gov]; Harris, Michael [harris.michael@epa.gov]; Newton, Cheryl [Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Nelson, Leverett [nelson.leverett@epa.gov]; Kaplan, Robert [kaplan.robert@epa.gov]; Deamer, Eileen [deamer.eileen@epa.gov]; Fortin, Denise [Fortin.Denise@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Benton Harbor newsclips 9/30/21

From: Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 6:15 AM
To: Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>; Gillespie, Taylor <Gillespie.Taylor@epa.gov>; Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>; Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>; Pope, Janet <Pope.Janet@epa.gov>; Gillespie, Taylor <Gillespie.Taylor@epa.gov>
Subject: Benton Harbor newsclips 9/30/21

<https://nbc25news.com/news/local/as-benton-harbor-faces-water-crisis-mayor-seeks-advice-from-flint-leaders>

As Benton Harbor faces water crisis, mayor seeks advice from Flint leaders

by Bria Jones
Wednesday, September 29th 2021

FLINT, Mich. -- The mayor of Benton Harbor — a small predominately Black city in the southwestern part of the state — says the city is facing a water crisis similar to the city of Flint.

Wednesday, Benton Harbor Mayor Marcus Muhammad met with Mayor Sheldon Neeley as public works staff members and local doctors.

Muhammad told Mid-Michigan NOW exclusively he accepted Mayor Neeley's invitation to come to Flint because he wanted to learn from the city's trial and error with the water crisis.

He said the Benton Harbor, a city with about 10,000 people has been experiencing high lead levels in water for several years.

Right now, he said they're meeting with Governor Gretchen Whitmer and have received millions in funding on the state and federal levels.

Muhammad said he's hoping this conversation in Flint, will help him better understand how to manage the situation.

"My number one priority is public safety so anything injurious or that is harmful to the people it is my responsibility to make sure we address that issue, and me coming to Flint is a step in that direction," said Benton Harbor Mayor Marcus Muhammad.

"We have a humanitarian effort we have to put forth in the state of Michigan especially for black and brown communities that have been devastated by environmental injustices. Now, we have a duty and responsibility to provide a level of leadership as it relates to these issues as it relates to lead and drinking water," said Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley.

Muhammad said the city is now replacing service lines, and hopes to have problems fixed 12-18 months.

Francisco Arcaute, U.S. EPA

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